

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS CORPSMATTERS

The Online Newsletter for CCC Alumni



2nd Edition



Three Decades of Service to State

We were honored to have First Lady Maria Shriver and CCC founder Jerry Brown mark the Corps' 30th anniversary at an emergency preparedness event in September. They had a few minutes to hone their sandbagging techniques together, before commemorating the CCC milestone during a ceremony on the State Capitol steps.

The anniversary event was followed by a fundraising luncheon hosted by the CCC Foundation, with former Gov. Brown as the keynote speaker. He described the ups and downs of the early days of the CCC but noted that today, the program is solidly "embedded" as a part of state government.

We're pleased that the money generated at the luncheon will help jump-start the creation of our new alumni program.

From the CCC Director

Dear Former Corpsmember:

For 30 years, the CCC has played an important role in the development and success of thousands of California's young men and women. As you well know, the CCC is more than a job; it's an experience that can shape your life. For this reason, we're putting together an exciting new alumni program so you can maintain a lasting link with the Corps, today's hard-working youth, and environmental conservation.

Help us get the word out: Since announcing plans for this program, more than 1,000 alumni have signed up. It's a great start, but I know there are many more of you out there. Please encourage all the former corpsmembers you know to sign up on our Web site www.ccc.ca.gov, clicking on Alumni Registry on the left. Once you're registered, you'll be automatically enrolled in the new alumni program when it's underway.

For now, please enjoy this second issue of *Corps Matters*. You'll see the CCC has been very busy over the past months, marking our 30th anniversary, saving towns and businesses from floods and fires, completing three national and international exchanges, another Backcountry season, and even filming a TV pilot with former corpsmember Coolio. So read on, spread the word and stay tuned for more!

Best Regards,
Will Semmes



WHAT YOU'RE SAYING

- ◆ "When I look back on my life and the things I've accomplished, I'm glad the CCC was a part of it."
Timothy Elersich, Inyo, 1980
- ◆ "An awesome, wonderful experience that helped me get a great start in life!"
Terri Quintanilla, Tahoe, 1991
- ◆ "I believe my time in the CCC was what transformed me from an irresponsible, selfish youth, into an honest, productive citizen of this great state. I don't know where I'd be today if not for the Corps."
Alan Alford, SLO, 1986-87

Corpsmembers Pack Their Boots... and Passports

A few lucky corpsmembers have just returned from out-of-state adventures, including two exchanges overseas. First, two corpsmembers took part in a 10-week environmental education program sponsored by the Tahoe-Baikal Institute, spending time at Lake Tahoe as well as Lake Baikal in Siberia. The CCC Foundation provided financial assistance enabling them to go.

Also this year, our Australian exchange crew completed two months Down Under, tackling environmental projects in Melbourne and Alice Springs with Conservation Volunteers Australia. This exchange has continued every year since 1988. Meanwhile, our Placer and Ukiah centers were pleased to host an Aussie contingent in September.

Our first ever exchange with the Montana Conservation Corps didn't require passports, but five corpsmembers from San Luis Obispo definitely had a change of scenery, working on trails in Glacier National Park. A Montana crew here had an equally beautiful work setting, removing invasive plants at Moonstone Beach on the Pacific Ocean.

Coolio's First Job

The TV Guide Channel recently aired a new pilot called Stars' First Jobs, hosted by Melissa Rivers. If you tuned in, you may have caught a glimpse of a famous CCC alumnus, Coolio, the Grammy-award-winning entertainer. Not only did he talk about his days in the CCC (Pomona, Inland Empire) when he was known as **Artis Ivey**, but he was shown being put through the paces with current-day Camarillo corpsmembers at Leo Carrillo State Park. Coolio considers the CCC a vital turning point in his life and has remained involved in helping raise the Corps' profile throughout the state.



Governor Commends Flood Crews; Fire Season Brings CCC Response



Some of you may remember fighting floods in Firebaugh, Fresno County in 1997. The CCC was back in April this year, 200 corpsmembers strong. Crews from nine centers worked around the clock to fill 80,000 sandbags and lay Visquine along the banks of the San Joaquin River, thereby saving Firebaugh from disaster.

Governor Schwarzenegger and CCC Director Will Semmes toured the area on April 13, talking with corpsmembers and praising their efforts.

Within a few months, many of these same crews were dispatched to fires throughout the state. By the end of September, nearly 300 corpsmembers were providing initial attack and logistical support to the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Happy Trails to 2006 Backcountry Crews

Our 28th Backcountry Trails season has now concluded, with crews assigned this year to Yosemite, Kings Canyon, Klamath National Forest and the Trinity Alps Wilderness. After debriefing at Camp Mather, corpsmembers are back in "civilization" after the experience of a lifetime.

Many Backcountry alumni turn their experience into a career. The Backcountry's **Peter Lewis** tells us that there are now 545 participants — maybe some of you — who have gone on to jobs in the state or national parks.